

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 961
By Wilder

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Joseph C. Hawkins upon his recognition as the Federal Aviation Administration's National Aviation Maintenance Technician of the Year for 2006.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens, who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Joseph C. "Joe" Hawkins, who recently became Tennessee's first recipient of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Technician of the Year for 2006 Award; and

WHEREAS, over the last 43 years, a consortium of aviation industry organizations and the FAA have sponsored a program that recognizes a small group of aviation professionals for their contributions to aviation safety and education. The National Aviation Maintenance Technician of the Year Award highlights the important role these individuals play in promoting aviation safety, education, and professionalism, while recognizing those singular technicians whose generosity and unselfishness have gone beyond the boundaries of their custom; and

WHEREAS, Joe Hawkins began his aviation career in 1979 with Stevens Aviation, first in Greer, South Carolina, and then in Nashville; in 1991, he became the Chief Aviation Maintenance Technician for Tennessee's Department of Transportation, where he was responsible for the airworthiness and safety of flight for a fleet of piston- and turbine-powered aircraft operated by various state agencies; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work as an Assistant Professor of Aerospace at Middle Tennessee State University, Joe Hawkins currently serves as an Aviation Safety Counselor with

the FAA and as a member of the steering committee for the Tennessee Mid-South Aviation Maintenance Conference held annually in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, where he earned both a Bachelor of Science degree and Master of Science degree in education, Mr. Hawkins epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Joe Hawkins for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Joseph C. "Joe" Hawkins upon his receipt of the Federal Aviation Administration's National Aviation Maintenance Technician of the Year Award, honor and commend him for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.